



AYSGARTH SCHOOL

ADMISSIONS POLICY (15a)

Responsibility of Jonathon Anderson

Reviewed: September 2023 and to be reviewed October 2024

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Responsible Member of Staff : Jonathon Anderson

GENERAL

Aysgarth Prep School comprises a boys only independent school for pupils from ages 8 to 13, and a co-educational Pre-Prep 3 to 8. The Prep school has about 155 pupils, up to 135 of whom are boarders. Deciding on the right school for your child is very important, and we believe that a personal visit is invaluable. We very much hope that you and your child will visit Aysgarth. We hold a number of events to which prospective parents are invited and these give a general introduction to the school. Details are published on our website. We are also very happy to welcome prospective parents and their children at other times.

Please contact the school's Registrar/Admissions Secretary, on 01677 451021 or email npargeter@aysgarthschool.co.uk to arrange a visit.

SECTION 1 : THE ENTRY PROCEDURE FOR PREP SCHOOL

Admission is at the discretion of the Headmaster and, for example, we reserve the right to refuse a place where references are unfavourable or there is an outstanding debt with another provider.

Aysgarth is not an academically selective school and there is no entrance examination. All pupils will however, prior to their arrival, be given an assessment test to establish their current level of ability and likely potential. Aysgarth aims to identify pupils who are able to benefit from our balanced and well rounded education and to make a positive contribution towards the life of the school.

The usual point of entry into the Prep school is at 8 years old (Year 4). We admit pupils into other year groups when there are places but the school reserves the right to use its discretion when applications exceed the number of available places within a year group.

We recommend that parents formally register interest in a place as early as possible by submitting a registration form accompanied by the £40 registration fee. Once a formal offer of a place has been made, this will only be secured for your child on payment of the £500 refundable deposit and submission of enrollment paperwork.

SECTION 2 : THE ENTRY PROCEDURE FOR PRE- PREP SCHOOL

Admission is at the discretion of the Headmaster, for example, we reserve the right to refuse a place where references are unfavourable or there is an outstanding debt with another provider

We admit pupils into any year group where spaces are available. Registration can be completed at any time prior to the child's starting date. Pupils are invited to a taster morning to meet their class and teachers, usually towards the end of the term before they start. The extent of any further 'trial' sessions is agreed between the school and parents to facilitate a smooth transition when entering the Pre-Prep.

Children entering Nursery or Reception are not assessed prior to entry but we will ask for reports or learning journeys from previous schools and settings. We may also telephone the previous setting if we feel further detail is necessary. In addition to this, we undertake an informal assessment for pupils entering the school in PP1, 2 and 3 to establish their current level of ability. We may take references from previous schools or settings.

Whilst we will make every effort to meet your requirements it may not always be possible to do so, due to the limited number of places and sessions. There are a limited number of places which are eligible for Early Years Funding.

Where places are limited, consideration is given to the following:

Children who:

- are moving up into Reception and continuing through the Pre-Prep at Aysgarth (*nursery only*)
- have a sibling already attending the school
- are registered to attend the Prep School
- are in the older nursery cohort (*nursery only*)
- are attending for full days, rather than single sessions (*nursery only*)
- are attending for a greater number of sessions (*nursery only*)

We recommend that parents formally register interest in a place as early as possible by submitting a registration form accompanied by the £40 registration fee. Once a formal offer of a place has been made, this will only be secured for your child on payment of the £500 refundable deposit and submission of enrollment paperwork.

EQUAL TREATMENT

Aysgarth's aim is to encourage applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world. A limited number of generous bursaries are offered in the Prep School in order to make it possible for as many as possible who meet the school's admission criteria to attend the school.

Aysgarth is committed to equal treatment for all (Equality Act 2010) regardless of a candidate's race, sex, disability, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age, gender reassignment, cultural background, linguistic background, special educational need, academic or sporting ability or any other personal characteristics as set out in the Aysgarth School Equal Opportunities Policy.

The school's provision for bursaries is described in a separate policy. (Guidance on Bursaries).

SPECIAL NEEDS

Aysgarth does not discriminate in any way regarding entry. The school welcomes pupils with special educational needs providing that our learning support department can offer them the support that they require and they can cope with our curriculum. We welcome pupils with disabilities provided that our site can accommodate them. However, we strongly advise parents of children with special educational needs or physical or mental disabilities to discuss their child's requirements with the school before visiting or attending the assessment so that we can make adequate provision for them. Parents should provide a copy of an educational psychologist's report or a medical report if they have one.

The school will discuss thoroughly with parents and their medical advisers the adjustments that can reasonably be made for the child if he/she becomes a pupil at the school.

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS FOR THE PREP SCHOOL

The aim of the process is to assess suitability for the school. Aysgarth is looking for pupils with a genuine interest in education in the broadest sense of the word, with interests that stretch beyond the confines of the academic curriculum. The school has strong traditions in music, drama, art, CDT, community activities and sport. There are many extra-curricular activities, all of which are important in developing a well-balanced, confident individual.

No specific preparation for the assessments is needed, all candidates start on an equal footing, with identical opportunities to display their academic aptitude and extra-curricular skills.

We interview all boys on an informal basis, in the presence of their parents, as part of our assessment process for each age group. Any assessment will be used at the school's discretion.

SIBLING POLICY

Most brothers and sisters (Pre-Prep only) join us at Aysgarth. However, admission is not automatic and there may be occasions where the school judges that a sibling is likely to thrive better in a different environment.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR ENTRY TO THE PREP SCHOOL

Scholarships may be awarded in the Prep school at the discretion of the Headmaster. They can be awarded for academics, sport or music.

BURSARIES

Please see the Policy on 'Guidance on Bursaries'. Means tested bursaries for up to 100% of the fees are available in the Prep School.

OVERSEAS APPLICANTS

We welcome overseas pupils in the Prep School who can study at Aysgarth as a boarder, provided that they have a relative or legal guardian living in the UK with whom they can stay for some weekends, or in case of illness where they would be better nursed in a home environment or in the event of the school being closed for any reason.

Applicants from overseas who do not have a British Passport will be required to obtain a student visa for the duration of their intended stay at the school.

FLUENCY IN ENGLISH

In order to cope with the academic and social demands of the school, pupils will normally have been educated in the English medium for a short period of time before coming to the school. We do not provide EAL lessons from within the school staff although it may be possible for provision to be made, should a need arise.

RELIGIOUS BELIEFS

Although Aysgarth has a Christian ethos, the school does not select for entry on the basis of religious belief, and it welcomes children from all faiths. However, parents should be aware that there is compulsory Saturday school and that all pupils are expected to attend, and we normally expect all children to attend a daily service/assembly.

SCHOOL'S CONTRACTUAL TERMS & CONDITIONS

These are available from the school office.

COMPLAINTS

Please see Parents' Handbook. (Appendix 7) or the website, www.aysgarthschool.com

A Legal Requirement and an ISI Reporting Standard

References:

- A. Education Act 2002
- B. School Standards and Framework Act 1998
- C. The Education (Independent School Standards) (England) Regulations 2014
- D. Schools Admission Code 2010

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/doc/s/schools%20admission%20code%202010.doc>